Right to Information Bill

†457. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Right to Information Bill has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament;

(b) if so, when this Bill was passed;

(c) whether it has come into force as a law of the land;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when, the above said law is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) 'The Freedom of Information Bill, 2002', as passed by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 3rd December, 2002 and 16th December, 2002 respectively, received the assent of the President on 6th January, 2003 and 'The Freedom of Information Act, 2002' has been published in the Gazette of India on 7th January, 2003.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The notification of rules to be framed under the Act, as also setting up of the basic infrastructure, requires inter-ministerial/ departmental consultations as well as consultations with State Governments. As soon as this is completed, action shall be taken to notify the date from which the Act shall come into force.

Reduction of retirement age

458. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously thinking of reducing the retirement age of the Central Government employees from the present age of 60 years to 58 years;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) the reasons behind the move to reduce it to 58 years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) how Government propose to pay the post-retirement benefits to the retired employees in the event of reducing the age from 60 to 58 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Cases pending before CAT

†459. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several cases are pending before Central Administrative Tribunal for adjudication;

(b) if so, the total number thereof at the end of March, 2004;

(c) the cases out of such pending cases which were registered with the Tribunal more than five years earlier; and

(d) the average annual cases decided by the Tribunal during previous years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) 27,331 cases were pending in Central Administrative Tribunal as on 31.03.2004 as against a total institution of 4,27,854 cases since its inception in 1985.

(c) 2,312 cases are pending for more than five years.

(d) The average number of cases decided each year by the Tribunal from 1985 to 31.12.2003 is 21,651.

Overhaul of recruitment pattern

460. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to thoroughly overhaul the recruitment pattern in the Government service; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.